

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2017, I was in my district conducting official business and missed votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, and H.R. 3979, Keep America's Refuges Operational Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted in opposition to the Republican motion to fix the convening times.

## MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION 35TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Music at Kohl Mansion concert series, conducted each year at Mercy High School, Burlingame. This is the 35th year of Music at Kohl Mansion. Built in 1914, Kohl Mansion's stunningly beautiful hall and associated rooms are the perfect setting for sparkling holiday lights and the joyous sounds of chamber music.

Music at Kohl Mansion has a national reputation for presenting chamber concerts of the highest professional standards, featuring local, national and international ensembles. The allied program of Kohl for Kids has instructed over 100,000 students in interactive music programs through 22 K–12 public schools. The instruction has also been offered through concerts, master classes, and coaching. Kohl for Kids also serves the public in public libraries, community centers and senior residences. Hundreds of students have received musical instruments through the year-long instrument drive for schools, and a partnership with the Young Chamber Musicians since 2011 has strengthened the education and performance opportunities for advanced, teenage musicians.

The holiday production of Music at Kohl Mansion and the year-round production of music through Kohl for Kids strengthen America. Despite different cultures, backgrounds and experiences, music is a unifying language that every person can appreciate without regard to race, heritage or training. Music connects each of us with our inner spark, and encourages all to unite around a common source of inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of being an alumna of Mercy High School, and the proud trumpeter of its ongoing mission to elevate the human spirit. Music at Kohl

Mansion and its allied program of Kohl for Kids have spent 35 years making my community a more hopeful place in which to live. This holiday season, while viewing the lights around us, I want to celebrate the light within that is brought forth by the music emanating from Kohl Mansion. There is no finer location for music than the hall of Kohl Mansion where the love of God and country are palpable in

the joyous renditions of this treasured winter festival in tiny Burlingame. Let the bells of this concert ring for as long as our human species have hope of joy and redemption.

## IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA YOHN FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH WEMU RADIO

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Linda Yohn for her outstanding career with WEMU Radio. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of Michigan's music community for the past 30 years.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from Otterbein College in Ohio, Ms. Yohn started working at WKSU, a TV station in Kent, Ohio, where she discovered that radio was her true passion. Ms. Yohn has been a lover of jazz music her entire life and then took a job as a jazz music publicist in New York City where she stayed until joining the WEMU Radio team in April of 1987 as Music Director. She hosted Café Du Jazz on weekday evenings throughout her first few years at WEMU before taking the morning jazz slot which she has held for the past 25 years. Through Ms. Yohn's work, the station saw a sizable growth in the station's audience and its relationships with jazz artists and record companies. Ms. Yohn has fostered deep relationships with members of the jazz community, both locally and nationwide.

Ms. Yohn's work at WEMU has been critical to the growth and success of the station as well as cultivating the community of dedicated listeners that WEMU is known for. Southeastern Michigan's vibrant jazz scene is attributed to Ms. Yohn's work at WEMU and the relationships that she continues to cultivate. Her work has been recognized many times over the years and she serves as a board member for the Southeast Michigan Jazz Association and attends panels at various conferences and conventions throughout the country. Ms. Yohn has been named National Jazz Programmer of the Year five times, has received the Duke Dubois national award for service and has been named Ypsilanti's Ambassador for Jazz. Over the past 30 years, she has served as a mentor to the entire WEMU team; though her title was Music Director, she was also the heart and soul of the station. Ms. Yohn leaves behind a generation of passionate jazz listeners and on-air hosts. Her advocacy, passion, and hard work have made her a beloved leader in our Michigan community, and I look forward to her continued positive impact on our Michigan community in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda Yohn for a distinguished 30 year career with WEMU Radio. She has made a lasting impact on southeastern Michigan's jazz community.

## CONGRATULATING MELISSA BURNISON

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melissa Burnison on her recent confirmation to serve as the Department of Energy's Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. Melissa is well known to Members of the House, and President Trump made an excellent choice when he nominated her for this important position.

Melissa Burnison is a native of Kentucky and she began her career on Capitol Hill working for Senator MITCH MCCONNELL. Melissa later worked for Congressman Zach Wamp of Tennessee where she focused on Department of Energy issues. She later served as a senior advisor at the Department of Energy and most recently represented the Nuclear Energy Institute as Director for Federal Programs. In that capacity, my staff and I have worked closely with Melissa to address challenges and opportunities facing the nuclear industry. Melissa also worked tirelessly to foster increased collaboration between the DOE national labs and the nuclear industry. I have especially appreciated her work in this area.

While Melissa Burnison is a respected and effective professional, she truly stands out as a wife and mother. Melissa is an adoring mother of three daughters and with her husband, Scott, they have formed a warm and close family.

One of the pleasures of serving in the U.S. House of Representatives is seeing young, talented people come to Washington to serve their country. I commend Melissa for her confirmation in this important position, and I expect we will be hearing more about this talented and gracious public servant in the years ahead.

## TESTIMONY OF ANNA GOLDFARB

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2017*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Anna Goldfarb.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished members of Congress and fellow citizens, good afternoon. My name is Anna Goldfarb and I am a student in the Council Rock School District. I am very honored to be speaking before you today about diversity and inclusion issues at my Bucks County, Pennsylvania school. I attend a school where most of the students look like me. I have heard many times from classmates and teachers that discrimination is not a problem within our district. It wasn't until the last couple of years, when I became old enough and opened my eyes and ears, did I see and hear that improvement is needed.

I do not think that most teachers and students are trying to be hurtful to students of color, different religions, genders, or sexual orientation. I also don't think that my friends who do not speak up in the face of discrimination are choosing to stand with those that discriminate.